American Flag

The William Denton Moulten home built in 1877 in Hailstone. This home was a well known spot on the stage coach line. It was one of the showplaces in the valley in the early days.

"refrigerator like" pantry, three full rooms and a vegetable cellar in the basement. The floors were cedar, an inch and a half thick.

Mr. Moulton prospered in selling supplies to mining camps at Park City. He set up a complete spread on his ranch to handle his business, including a two-story milk shed with a pipeline leading to the dairy room in the house and another pipe line leading back to the calf shed for skim milk. There was a large slaughter house, an ice house and a well inside the barn. For its day it was very complete.

The house became so well known that the stage coach line from Heber City to Salt Lake built a side road so that passengers could view both back and front of the home and its surroundings.

When Mr. Moulton died his brother-in-law Orson H. Lee became foreman and owner of the property and for 30 years carried on the same work, selling supplies to mining camps as Mr. Moulton did. His three sons helped in the operation, and one son, Fay Lee, owned the property until it was torn down in 1959 to make way for new highway developments.

Others who came to the Hailstone area to homestead included Henry Cluff, Henry H. Walker, Benjamin Norris, John Buttery, Edward Dillon, John Swift and a Mr. Walkey. A daughter of the Hailstones, Emily, and her husband, Joseph Morris, operated the original Hailstone property, and their sons Harry, Moroni and Rodney and then the sons of Harry Morris took over the operation.

When William Davis died in 1891 his property was taken over by his sons William H. and Robert Davis. In 1939 some of the land was sold to the New Park Mining Company and the remaining part was sold to the LDS Church for a welfare farm.

The Henry Cluff property was sold to James and Sarah McDonald who later sold it to George A. Fisher, the founder of Keetley and Gail

Fisher—they built a number of small homes on the property which he rented to men working at the Park Utah Mine.

The Benjamin Norris property was known for an American Flag that he painted on a cliff near his home. The flag can be seen from the highway, and was repainted yearly under the direction of Isabelle Baum who maintained the tradition until her death since then it has been painted by Veterans of Foreign Wars of Heber.

Hailstone's greatest industrial development, apart from its support to the mining industry, came in 1929 when the Great Lakes Timber Company was established by Elmer Peterson, a Denver lumberman, and Michael J. Sweeney, a veteran western timberman. The lumbering operation prospered and in 1933 Mr. Sweeney became general manager and then sole owner in 1946. The company continued with its headquarters at Hailstone until 1960 when it moved to LaPoint in Unitah County. Before it moved from Hailstone the company was one of the largest industrial lumber and timber companies in the country. Recreational developments in forest land had reduced the available cutting timber in the Hailstone area of the Wasatch National Forest, which necessitated the move away from the area.

Schools and a branch of the Church existed for a time in Hailstone. The first school and a small cabin across the road from the William D. Moulton home. George Wootton was the first teacher and taught just one year. The next school was held in a little log cabin near the Cluff home and continued there several years until a larger building was constructed near Keetley to handle all the school children in the area. The Elkhorn Branch of the Church also held its meetings here.

A new, red brick school house was finally built in Keetley and was used by all the families in the area until the Wasatch School Board consolidated schooling in the Heber schools.

Some farming and dairy operations still continue at Hailstone, but motorists driving through the area on a new, widened highway hardly slow down now as they pass through what used to be homes, farms and buildings of a very happy people.

PROVO CANYON

Settlers first coming to Provo Valley traveled through Provo Canyon, and some were intrigued enough by its beauty and potential that they began to settle at spots through the canyon. Several resorts and fun spots some of which were in the Wasatch County area were established.

One of the most colorful canyon characters was a Scotsman, William "Billy" Ferguson. He settled in the canyon about 1863 as operator of toll gates at Spring Dell and Vivian Park. Midway between Provo City and Heber he built a famous roadhouse with surrounding camping spots and fishing areas. He especially enjoyed flowers, pets and fruit trees. His friends called him a "born optimist" for he found happiness in every-

first one to have a shingled roof. Its shingles were hand-split from saw logs cut at the first saw mill located in Center Creek, which was built by William Meeks and James Adams. Each of his wives now had a home of her own, although each still lived and worked happily together, helping each other with washing, quilting, and gardening.

1862 was a good year for Joseph, for he had his large family comfortably situated for the first time since he had been recalled from Carson Valley to defend Echo Canyon. His crops were harvested before frosts came that year, for in his diary John Crook wrote, *"On September 13th we threshed barley at Bishop Murdock's farm."*[12] His first child born at Heber, George Calvin, was born to Eliza on February 28th, 1862. In 1862 he also had the satisfaction of seeing Johnston's Army leave Utah, recalled because of the Civil War. The army marched up Provo Canyon and through Heber City to avoid passing through Salt Lake City. When he saw the hated army leave, Joseph must have felt that all of his labor, suffering, and hardship had been worthwhile.

Church duties frequently called Joseph to Salt Lake City, and on June 12th, 1862 he attended to temple duties with Brigham Young. Afterwards he spoke to a congregation at the tabernacle. Although his journal does not mention it, we find it noted in Charles Walker's diary. *"Brother Brigham spoke and then Brother Joseph Murdock of Heber City talked on polygamy, family government, and exhortations to faithfulness before God."*[13]

Joseph's little band of sheep which had grown from those first two ewes and a buck his mother had brought from Nauvoo in 1847 were fast multiplying into a good size band. His sons were now old enough to herd them in the foothills below Lake Creek, Center Creek, and Daniel's Canyon. John was 10 years old while Dave was nearly 8, but they were pioneer children, nearly as wild as Indians and could take care of themselves. Alva, born at Carson Valley, was only 4, but in only a few more years he would become one of the leading stockmen in the territory.

The first real Independence Day celebration held in Heber Valley was on July 4th, 1863, with a parade, speeches, singing, and the usual reading of the Declaration of Independence. Joseph offered the Invocation for the celebration.

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12. Journal of John Crook, Ibid Note #6 above.

13. Diary of Charles Walker, Pg. 213, Utah State University, 1980.

Only a month later, Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball attended conference at Heber City, and they praised Joseph and his counsellors for the great amount of work which had been accomplished, and complemented all of the pioneers for the new homes and thriving little city they had established in the wilderness. Several Presiding Elders and Bishops were appointed and ordained by Joseph during the conference, William Forman at West Heber, David Van Wagoner at Midway, and John Harvey at Center Creek.

Two more children were born in 1863, Betsy Eunice to Pernetta on February 28th and Mary Cecelia to Jane on May 24th. Little Mary Cecelia lived less than a year, dying in May, 1864. The hurt of her loss was softened somewhat by the birth of Alphonzo Brigham to Elizibeth several months earlier, on March 15th, 1864.

High on a landmark rock above the Provo River at Hailstone there is an American Flag painted, in a place where it can be seen from all over the valley below. There are several stories of how that flag came to be painted there. Some claim that soldiers under Col. Patrick Connor's command at Fort Douglas painted it, but a Murdock family tradition tells that Benny Norris painted the flag for that first Independence Day celebration at Heber Valley in 1863. But whether he painted it or not, there is no doubt that he kept it painted so long as he lived, and today it is still there for all to see. Benny had become too much for Sally to handle at Salt Lake City, so when Joseph moved to Heber, he brought Benny to live with his family there.

On September 25th, 1864 Sally Stacy Murdock died at the adobe brick home she and Nymphus had built at 3rd South and Main Street at Salt Lake City. She was 86 years of age and had been one of the earliest converts to the church in New York State. She had suffered through the trials at Nauvoo and the hard times at Winter Quarters. She was one of the pioneers of 1847, driving her own one-horse shay across the prairies soon after she had become a widow. She brought the first sheep into the territory and for years afterwards clopped their wool, spun it into cloth and made clothes which she gave to the needy. She was always the first to help the less fortunate and was beloved by all. She was a stalwart in the church and raised her sons to become the pioneers, colonizers, and church leaders they became noted for. Her passing was a sore trial for Joseph, but it nearly drove Nymphus to despair, for at nearly the same time as

her death, a diphtheria epidemic struck and claimed five of his children, sorely testing his faith.

Three out of four of his wife Sarah's children died during the epidemic, Nymphus Jr., Sarah, and Betsy, while two of Ester's three children, Stanley and Alphonso also died. The death of his mother and five children almost broke Nymphus. He became very bitter and wanted to leave the valley, saying, "*Brigham Young should have known better than to send us to such a God-forsaken place!*" Joseph tried to console him, but Nymphus cried out, "*It is very well for you to talk that way, for you have not lost any children!*" Joseph weighed his brother's words with deep sympathy, and then he said, "*Pick any of my children that you want to replace those who were lost.*" At first Nymphus was speechless and refused, but when Joseph told him that it would be easier for his wives if they had children to care for and ease their hurt, Nymphus consented and took Joseph's son Thomas and daughters Rocksina and Charlotte. Few ever knew how Nymphus came to raise those children of Joseph's until many years later when John H. reluctantly told his son Paul how Joseph's wisdom in a time of crisis not only gave comfort to Nymphus and his wives, but also kept their two families united as one.[14]

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14. Interview with Paul Murdock, April 20th, 1972.

American Flag Story